

OLC #78-5164/a

HPSCI

Honorable Richard A. Gephardt
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Gephardt:

I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest and support during consideration of H.R. 7308, the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

As you may know, on several occasions I have appeared before the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence to voice my full support for passage of this bill. It is legislation which strikes a fair balance between intelligence needs and privacy interests, both of which are vitally important. In my view the legislation will place the activities with which it deals on a solid and reliable legal footing and help to rebuild public confidence in the national intelligence collection effort and in the agencies of government principally engaged in that effort.

In particular, I believe that the bill's warrant provision, which would require a prior court order for the electronic surveillance in the United States of foreign powers, aliens, and U.S. citizens, rather than a provision requiring judicial warrants only for U.S. persons, as contained in an amendment adopted on the floor of the House on 6 September, is in the best interests of the Intelligence Community.

Yours sincerely,

STANSFIELD TURNER

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